IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 3, 4 and 11-13.

Please amend claims 1, 14 and 15 as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A fluid containment apparatus for use during removal of a spin-on fluid filter from a substrate, said apparatus comprising:

a boot having a substantially cylindrical boot body, said body including:

a ~~narrow~~ constricted portion configured to grip an outer surface of said filter for rotating ~~for placement closely surrounding a portion of~~ said filter to remove said filter from said substrate;

a ~~wide~~ flared bell portion depending from said constricted portion, said flared bell portion ~~adapted to form~~ forming an annular pocket between said outer surface of said filter and an inner surface of said flared bell portion when said ~~boot~~ constricted portion contacts said outer surface of ~~is placed surrounding~~ said filter; and

an absorbent member ~~for placement~~ disposed in said annular pocket, said absorbent member being positioned to ~~for~~ absorb~~ing~~ spillage from said filter when said filter is removed from said substrate.

Claim 2 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said absorbent member comprises a pad comprising an absorbent material selected from the group consisting of cellulose and melt-blown polypropylene.

Claims 3 and 4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the absorbent member is disposable and further wherein the boot is cleanable and re-usable.

Claim 6 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein an extended contact area is provided, inside of the constricted portion of the boot body, for contacting an exterior of a fluid filter, said extended contact area being at least one quarter of the length of said boot body.

Claim 7 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said absorbent member is in the form

of a substantially annular disk adapted to fit into said pocket of said boot body.

Claim 8 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said boot body comprises a material selected from the group consisting of vinyl polymers, urethanes, oil-tolerant elastomers, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 9 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said absorbent member is in the form of a substantially flat section of material, which is manually bendable into a cylindrical shape for placement in said pocket of the boot body.

Claim 10 (original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said fluid filter is an oil filter.

Claims 11-13 (cancelled).

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method of minimizing fluid spillage during removal of a fluid filter from a substrate, comprising the steps of:

~~a) slidably placing a substantially cylindrical fluid containment apparatus around a cylindrical fluid filter, said fluid containment apparatus comprising an absorbent member;~~

~~(b)~~ sliding a constricted portion of a ~~the~~ fluid containment apparatus along a periphery of the filter towards ~~a~~ the substrate on which the filter is mounted~~,~~ until ~~part of the apparatus~~ an absorbent member disposed in a hollow pocket of said fluid containment apparatus contacts the substrate;

~~(c)~~ rotating said constricted portion of said fluid containment apparatus and the filter to begin unscrewing ~~it~~ the filter from the substrate, ~~whereby~~ said absorbent member being positioned to absorb a portion of fluid that spills from said filter ~~some fluid spills forth from the filter as spillage proximate the substrate, said absorbent member absorbing at least part of said spillage~~; and

~~(d)~~ removing the filter from the substrate.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method of claim 14, further comprising wiping at least a portion of said substrate with said absorbent member when said constricted portion of said fluid containment apparatus is rotated.

Please add new claims 16-21 as follows:

Claim 16 (new): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said flared bell portion comprises a plurality of compressible accordion shaped flutes configured to contact said absorbent member.

Claim 17 (new): A fluid containment apparatus for use during removal of a spin-on fluid filter from a substrate, said apparatus comprising:

a first tubular member having a closed end and an open end;

a second tubular member disposed within the first tubular member in a facing spaced relationship with respect to the first tubular member thereby defining a hollow pocket between the second tubular member and the first tubular member, an inner surface of the second tubular member having contact with an outer surface of the filter for gripping and rotating the filter, a first end of the second tubular member being coupled to the closed end of the first tubular member; and

an absorbent member disposed in the hollow pocket, the absorbent member being positioned to absorb spillage from the filter when the filter is removed from the substrate.

Claim 18 (new): The apparatus of claim 17, wherein an end portion of the absorbent member extends beyond the open end of the first tubular member.

Claim 19 (new): The apparatus of claim 18, wherein a length of the second tubular member is substantially equal to a length of the first tubular member.

Claim 20 (new): The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the absorbent member is configured to be insertably disposed into the hollow pocket.